

the U.S. side of the border, according to Department of Homeland Security statistics released last week to the Chronicle. So far this fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, 2003, Homeland Security officials released from Border Patrol custody 21,979 of the 49,705 illegal immigrants from countries other than Mexico, known to the Border Patrol as OTMs.

As a member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Infrastructure and Border Security and Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Control I joined Mr. BONILLA and another of my Texas colleagues, Mr. SOLOMON ORTIZ for a series of briefings and field visits at the Brownsville border areas.

When Border Patrol (BP) officers catch undocumented immigrants, they take them to a facility to be processed. If they are Mexican, they usually are placed on a bus and returned to Mexico. If they are not Mexican, BP classifies them as "OTM" (other than Mexican). Under a new detention policy popularly known as "catch and release," thousands of OTMs are released on their own recognizance pending a deportation hearing scheduled to be held months after they are released. Apparently, a large percentage of the OTMs abscond instead of appearing for removal proceedings.

I share many of the concerns that my colleagues SOLOMON P. ORTIZ and HENRY BONILLA have expressed about border security. The catch and release policy appears to be the result of a lack of funding for detention facilities. The security concern about the catch and release policy is that it includes individuals from nations the U.S. defines as state sponsors of potential terrorism. Before commenting on the catch and release policy, I want to emphasize that immigration does not equate with terrorism. All but a few of the immigrants who enter our country unlawfully are hardworking people who are coming to the United States because they want better lives for themselves and their families.

I favor the approach that Canada takes to border security, namely, they emphasize identifying the people who might be dangerous. We must improve intelligence operations so that our border patrol officers will be able to separate out the potential terrorists. This involves a two step process. We must first identify the potential terrorists, and then that information must be made available to the border patrol officers.

My colleagues SOLOMON P. ORTIZ and HENRY BONILLA have said that we need to increase the number of immigration judges. They believe that an increase in the number of immigration judges will dramatically reduce the need for detention facilities. I agree that we need more immigration judges. I also think that we need more Board Members for the Board of Immigration Appeals. Attorney General Ashcroft removed 5 experienced Board members a few years ago in a misguided effort to increase the productivity of the Board.

My alien smuggling bill, the CASE Act, or H.R. 2630, will address one of the major impediments to gaining control over our borders. The CASE Act would establish a three-point program to facilitate the investigation and prosecution, or disruption, of reckless commercial alien smuggling operations that features incentives, penalty enhancements, and an outreach program. This three-point program would provide government investigators

and prosecutors with tools that have proven their worth in other areas of criminal law and would be just as useful with commercial alien smuggling operations. The result would be fewer deaths from alien smuggling operations.

Therefore, this amendment will address a very clear need, and I support the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on October 5, 2004, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall votes 494, 495, and 496. Had I been present I would have voted, "no" on rollcall vote no. 494, H.R. 163; "yes" on rollcall vote no. 495, H.R. 2929, and "yes" on rollcall vote no. 496, H.R. 5011.

EGYPTIAN SINAI BOMBINGS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in deep disgust to speak about the ghastly attacks on three Egyptian Sinai resorts.

It should be obvious to all of us that these attacks were perpetrated because we are entering the final days of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot.

The terrorists who committed these heinous attacks had one goal—that goal was to kill as many innocent Israelis as possible.

The three terrorist attacks murdered at least 29 people and injured scores of others but unfortunately I fear the number of dead will rise as rescue teams search through the rubble.

The international community to the fullest extent must condemn these attacks.

It is time for the anti-Israeli elements within the United Nations to stop their one-sided resolutions and recognize that terrorism is a continuing threat to Israel and to the world.

The nations who continually work to pass these anti-Israeli resolutions within the United Nations General Assembly—must stop their rhetoric and instead do something to stop these attacks.

These nations can no longer be content by sitting on the sidelines and criticizing the actions of the Israeli government to protect their citizens.

Instead, it is time for these nations to help the Palestinian people who seek a nation that is not lead by corrupt leaders who support terrorism.

If these nations really want to see the success of the Palestinian people they will not only condemn these attacks, but they will finally begin to work toward ending terrorism and the attacks we see in the Middle East and around the world.

SPECIALTY CROPS COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3242, the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004, albeit with reservations about the scaled down version of the substitute bill that comes before us today.

When I joined Representative DOUG OSE last year in introducing H.R. 3242, it was a natural reflection of my longstanding interest in a prosperous and competitive specialty crops sector.

U.S. farm policy has long overlooked the importance of specialty crops, despite the fact that these non-subsidized crops account for the majority of crop production in this country. Instead, U.S. farm policy has tended to focus on so-called "program" crops, such as cotton, rice, sugar, peanuts, wheat, corn, oilseeds, feed grains, and others, which account for less than half of domestic production.

H.R. 3242 was introduced not to bring fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and other horticultural products into the category of "program commodities" but instead to focus federal attention and resources on the problems facing this segment of U.S. agriculture. The bill as introduced included various regulatory reforms as well as a modest level of federal dollars to invest in non-market-distorting ways in the competitiveness of the U.S. specialty crop sector.

As the lead Democrat sponsor of H.R. 3242, however, I am very disappointed that the version of the bill that moved out of the House Agriculture Committee and is before us today is significantly scaled down from the original bill. In particular, the federal funding provided by this substitute bill has gone from a mandatory spending level of \$508 million per year for five years, to a discretionary authorization of only \$54 million per year that is further subject to annual appropriations.

This is a far cry from the level of federal commitment to the specialty crop sector that is warranted.

Specialty crops have an annual farm-gate value of \$52 billion and receive no federal subsidies. Program crops, on the other hand, have a farm-gate value of only \$48 billion. Yet the program commodities received federal subsidies in the amount of \$12–13 billion, the equivalent of 27 percent of their farm-gate value.

This bill does not change the fact that producers of specialty crops receive no federal subsidy payments, and instead rely solely on the market for their income. No new federal price supports, direct payments, marketing loans, or counter-cyclical payments are created in this bill.

A serious federal commitment to this sector, however, requires a serious level of federal dollars.

The bulk of federal expenditures under H.R. 3242 would go to a block grant program that would distribute federal dollars to interested states for research, marketing, promotion, and other competitiveness-enhancing programs for their specialty crop industries. These funds are designed to increase consumer awareness and demand for specialty crop products and

otherwise strengthen U.S. producers' ability to supply a safe, nutritious and quality product to both domestic and foreign markets.

Unfortunately, the bill as amended drastically reduced the federal commitment to this block grant proposal, from \$470 million in mandatory spending down to \$44.5 million in discretionary spending.

During the Agriculture Committee's markup of this bill, I attempted to restore merely half of the mandatory funds provided under the original bill for the block grant program. In order to keep the legislation revenue-neutral from a budgetary standpoint, I offered two separate alternative offsets—one based on a small, pro rata reduction in direct fixed payments to program commodity producers, and the other based on a bipartisan payment limitations proposal pending in the Senate (S. 667).

My amendment to finance the cost of a mandatory \$220 million per year block grant program for specialty crops would have reduced the annual federal subsidies received by program crops by merely 1.7 percent. As a percent of program crop gross income, this represents a 0.36 percent reduction. Yet even this minuscule reduction encountered strong resistance by those farm and commodity organizations benefiting from these federal subsidies today.

The inequitable distribution of federal expenditures between program commodities and non-subsidized specialty crops must be changed. The United States can no longer afford to short-change the majority of its crop producers who rely on market forces—not federal program payments—to drive their income. The fact that the current farm bill, enacted in 2002, does not expire until 2007 is no excuse for not reallocating a small portion of federal expenditures by less than 2 percent.

Some of my colleagues seek to support the specialty crop sector without simultaneously disturbing the enormous benefits enjoyed by the program commodities. However, federal dollars are scarce resources and a more equitable distribution of these limited resources is long overdue. I hope my colleagues will eventually agree.

In the meantime, I urge adoption of this legislation today and hope that it will lay an effective foundation for a stronger federal investment in our specialty crop sector in future years.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, the protection of the Nation against terrorist attacks is foremost on all of our minds. We all agree that we need to identify, detain, and prosecute those who intend to inflict terror

on this Nation and its people. While I agree on the prosecution of terrorists requires tools that go beyond those available in our criminal justice system, I believe that this amendment goes too far.

Specifically, this amendment denies pre-trial release of terrorist suspects upon a certification from the Attorney General. Denial of pre-trial release would impede the ability of the wrongly accused from clearing their name. They would be hampered in their ability to select and meet with counsel, to search for witnesses who could vouch for them, and collect their own personal documents and other effects as evidence which could absolve them.

These concerns are not theoretical. We need only look to Oregon attorney Brandon Mayfield who was arrested in May as a suspect for the horrific terrorist attacks in Madrid last spring. Mayfield, a former U.S. Army lieutenant, was detained for three weeks because authorities believed that his fingerprints were found on evidence recovered in Madrid. Shoddy practices were used to transmit Mayfield's fingerprints by U.S. officials to Madrid. The poor quality of those transmitted prints should have precluded any positive identification. However, the compulsion to catch the perpetrators lead investigators to jump to the conclusion that Mayfield, a Muslim, must have been involved. Only after good quality fingerprint data was transmitted to Madrid was Mr. Mayfield cleared.

We need to pass responsible legislation that will be effective in detaining those who seek to harm this Nation. This amendment includes some provisions that overreach this responsibility.

IN MEMORY OF VERNON ALLEY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, It is with great personal sadness and San Francisco's deep sorrow, that I rise to pay tribute to Vernon Alley, the most distinguished and beloved jazz musician in San Francisco's history, who passed away on October 3rd. Vernon honored his beloved City by choosing to pass up playing in the big jazz cities of New York and Chicago to devote his life to enchanting and inspiring generations of San Franciscans. He elevated our City with his music and his dedication to racial justice.

A lifelong San Franciscan, Vernon went to high school with Joe DiMaggio, where he became an all-star fullback. His interest in jazz began as a boy when his parents took him to see jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton. He started his own group in the 30's in the Fillmore. In 1940 he went to New York and joined the Lionel Hampton Band. Two years later, he became a member of the Count Basie Orchestra.

Vernon Alley knew and played with the greatest jazz musicians and performers of his generation—Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Erroll Garner, Nat King Cole, Charles Mingus, Ella Fitzgerald, and Billie Holiday.

He returned to his beloved San Francisco in 1942. The music scene exploded in the 40's when African Americans moved to San Fran-

cisco's Bayview District to work in the shipyards. Vernon fostered jazz in the Bay Area during the heyday of the Fillmore District and North Beach jazz scenes of the 1940's and 50's.

Vernon was as dedicated to fighting racism as he was to his music. He singlehandedly integrated the San Francisco Musicians Union. As chairman of the board of the black musicians local, he fought for integration of the City's jazz clubs, luring most of the white musicians into his local, because they wanted to play jazz in the swing clubs. As an accompanist for Ella Fitzgerald, he fought the segregationist policies of the casinos of Las Vegas.

A close friend of many San Francisco mayors, he served for years on the San Francisco Arts Commission and the Human Rights Commission. He was active in the City's arts community and hosted two popular radio programs and a television show. His good friend, columnist Herb Caen, whom he first showed around town when Caen was a young newspaperman, often mentioned Vernon as a man "whose smile lights up the town, even on foggy days."

Vernon was inducted into the San Francisco State University Alumni Hall of Fame in 1997. In 2001, when his health was declining, the San Francisco Jazz Festival put together a 3½ hour tribute called "The Legacy of Vernon Alley" that drew more than a thousand musicians and friends. Later that year, an alley in a redevelopment project was named "Vernon Alley."

We will never forget our most beloved jazzman. With a twinkle in his eyes, an infectious smile, a booming laugh, and his bass "Baby" in hand, he captivated us all. I hope it is a comfort to his brother, Eddie, his longtime companion, Loma Ruyter, and his nieces and nephews that so many friends and fans share their grief and are praying for them at this sad time.

APPLAUDING LOUISVILLE'S JEWISH HOSPITAL

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize the incredible accomplishments of one my district's premier hospitals in the field of medical technology advancements. Jewish Hospital HealthCare Services is a regional network of more than 50 health care facilities providing services for Kentucky and Southern Indiana residents. It has recently opened the doors of a "next generation" medical center, Jewish Hospital Medical Center East, offering the region's most advanced outpatient diagnostic procedures and treatment options in the areas of outpatient surgery, endoscopy, gender-specific medicine, diagnostic medical imaging, cardiopulmonary services, rehab services and occupational health.

Earlier this year, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson announced a legislative plan to electronically link health records nationwide, part of President Bush's call for an electronic health record for every American in the next 10 years. The aim is to make patient information available to several